IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An online shopping method executed in a system having in which a server function of managing manages a status of use of at least one consumable used upon printing in a printing device, said method comprising:

receiving the status of the use of the at least one consumable used in the printing device via a communication line by the server function;

calculating a service point according to the received status of the use of the at least one consumable;

causing a storage unit to record information on a customer's purchase of merchandise provided by a consumable trader, the purchase being based on the calculated service point; and

deciding a compensation to the consumable trader based on the information recorded in the storage unit.

21. to 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 20, further comprising receiving compensation request information, wherein said deciding step comprises verifying authentication of the received compensation request information based on the received compensation request information and the service point calculated in said calculation calculating step.

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26. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the status of ~~the~~ use of the at least one consumable includes a consumption amount of the consumable.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the purchase includes a price discount, and the compensation includes a refund or an incentive.

28. (Currently Amended) An online shopping system[[,]] ~~comprising:~~ <u>in which</u>

a server ~~having a server function of managing~~ <u>manages</u> a status of use of at least one consumable used upon printing in a printing device, [[;]] <u>the server comprising:</u>

a receiving unit that receives the status of ~~the~~ use of the at least one consumable used in the printing device via a communication line ~~by the server function~~;

a calculating unit that calculates a service point according to the received status of ~~the~~ use of the at least one consumable;

a storage unit that records information on a customer's purchase of merchandise provided by a consumable trader, the purchase being based on the calculated service point; and

a deciding unit that decides a compensation to the consumable trader based on the information recorded in the storage unit.

29. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 28, <u>wherein the server</u> further ~~comprising~~ <u>comprises</u> a reception unit that receives compensation request information, wherein said deciding unit comprises a verifying unit that verifies authentication of the received compensation request information based on the received compensation request information and the service point calculated by said calculating unit.

30. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 28, wherein the status of ~~the~~ use of the at least one consumable includes a consumption amount of the consumable.

31. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 28, wherein the purchase includes a price discount, and the compensation includes a refund or an incentive.

32. (Currently Amended) A <u>computer-readable</u> program stored on a computer-readable medium<u>, the program</u> for an online shopping method executed in a system ~~having~~ <u>in which</u> a server ~~function of managing~~ <u>manages</u> a status of use of at least one consumable used upon printing in a printing device, said program comprising <u>the steps of</u>:

receiving the status of ~~the~~ use of the at least one consumable used in the printing device via a communication line ~~by the server function~~;

calculating a service point according to the received status of ~~the~~ use of the at least one consumable;

causing a storage unit to record information on a customer's purchase of merchandise provided by a consumable trader, the purchase being based on the calculated service point; and

deciding a compensation to the consumable trader based on the information recorded in the storage unit.

33. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 32, further comprising receiving compensation request information, wherein said deciding step comprises verifying authentication of the received compensation request information based on the received compensation request information and the service point calculated in said ~~calculation~~ <u>calculating</u> step.

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34. (Currently Amended) A program according to Claim 32, wherein the status of the use of the at least one consumable includes a consumption amount of the consumable.

35. (Previously Presented) A program according to Claim 32, wherein the purchase includes a price discount, and the compensation includes a refund or an incentive.

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